(Cranganur)" and also for an additional allotment of Rs. 253—8—0 under "19—Sanitation and Conservancy—Dearness Allowance (Cranganur)".

The pay of thotties and that of the sweepers were Rs. 9 and Rs. 8 respectively and from 15th Chingam 1120 their pay was raised to Rs. 10. On accunt of the raising of the pay, which had not been contemplated at the preparation of the budget for 1120, excess expenditure to the extent of Rs. 253—8—0 under "Cleaning charges" Rs. 253—8—0 under "Dearness Allowance" has be come necessary. No reappropriation is possible. An additiqnal allotment of Rs. 253—8—0 under Cleaning charges" and Rs. 253—8—0 under "Dearness Allowance" are therefore necessary.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Mr. President, I am constrained to oppose this paltry demand. It may look rather strange when such a paltry amount is asked for, for paying an extra sum of Re. 1 to a class of service men whose services are absolutely necessary for maintaining the health which is recognised by the present Hon'ble Minister as the greatest wealth. I find, Sir, that a munificient increase in the pay of thotties to the tune of Re. 1 for 30 days is proposed to be given. Our experience shows, Sir, that strikes on the part of these thotties are not few in number. The dire consequences of such strikes have been experienced both in municipal as well as in rural areas. The place from which I come has been a victim of such a strike on the part of the thotties for a continuous period of full 7 days. How far this state of affairs will conduce to the well being and health of the inhabitants of the locality can well be imagined? What is the reason for these strikes, Sir? The reason is that these unfortunate servants of the benign Government do not get living wages. It is the duty of any Government, worth its name, to pay its servants remuneration just sufficient at least to give minimum living wages. Moreso in the case of the thotties who are not doing any pleasant work at all. Until we come up to the level of the great Saint of Sabarmathi that to do scavenging for oneself by oneself, is as honourable a job as any admitted good avocation till we come to that stage, Sir, the services of these men are absolutely necessary. And if we want the services of these men decent remuneration must be given to them. If not decent remuneration, at least, living wages should be paid to these people who are constrained, by dint of poverty to take to this, in no wise, pleasant jobs. To the utter disgrace of the benign Government, Sir, they have not been pleased to pay them even that much. Therefore I was constrained to oppose the grant asked for for paying this munificent sum of 16 annas for the timely discharge of work for 30 days. Decency demands that their pay be raised at least to Rs. 20 per mensem in consideration of the particular nature of the work they are doing and the necessity for doing this work. It is only to urge this aspect of the case that I had sent up a token cut along with a few more cuts on some of the sub-demands which for reasons not known to me has not been delivered at the Council Office, although they had left my office the moment I got the agenda containing these supplementary demands. Hence it is, Sir, that at the outset I said I am constrained to oppose this, not with the idea of not allowing the amount to the Government, but to bring before the eyes of the Government this particular aspect of the case which I pray may be immediately looked into and at once acted upon. That is the prayer, Sir. I oppose the demand quite unwillingly, but for want of any other alternative method to gain the object at hand. I hope, I am confident, Mr. President, I may not have to press the point to a division.

Mr. Parambi Lonappen *(Minister for Rural Development):* Sir, Hon'ble Member's intention is that the pay now granted to these thotties is very inadequate. The Government will sympathetically consider the suggestions made by the Hon'ble Member.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Thank you, Sir. I beg leave of the House to withdraw my opposition.

Demand put and carried

8. "15-1-Huzur Secretariat—Miscellaneous"

Mr. B. V. K. Menon *(Secretary to Government):* Sir, I rise to move for an additional allotment of Rs. 8,250 under "15-1—Huzur Secretariat—Miscellaneous". The amount provided in this year's budget for election expenses was only Rs. 2,000. A sum of Rs. 14,750 was subsequently sanctioned as additional allotment. It is now estimated by the Diwan Peishkar that the election expenses will come to Rs. 25,000. A further sum of Rs. 8,250 is therefore required. I request that the House may be pleased to vote the demand.

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Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Sir, I am once again constrained to oppose a supplementary demand. It is an amount asked for to meet the expenditure which was incurred for bringing us the representatives of the people into this House. Why I submit to the House that this demand be not allowed is that the arrangements made for elections that came off on the 15th Edavam 1120 were most unsatisfactory from start to finish. I say start to finish, Sir, for the simple reason that from preparation of the preliminary electoral rolls publication of the final results of the election by the Returning authority every arrangement made was defective, out of all proportion to the defectiveness of their brothers at previous elections. After the publication of the Preliminary Rolls came, Sir, the sittings of the revising authority. Their activities in certain places have even eclipsed the incompetence of the earlier stage. I find, Sir, that in the constituency which has been pleased to return me to this House, a Government servant, who is none other than a samprathi transferred from Vadakkancheri Treasury early in 1120 and having all the qualifications to be on the rolls and whose name appeared in the electoral roll preliminary could not exercise his vote as a result of the final electoral roll not containing his name. Instances like that can be multiplied. Then, Sir, came the arrangement of the polling booths. In an area 14 ft. x 8 ft., it was my miserable experience to find located as many as 7 polling booths into some of which bulky individuals like myself (*Laughter*) had certainly to go for exercising their votes. I tried my best to effect an entrance and even side-ways I could not enter the polling booth. I had in my mind an individual voter whose vote I was counting upon, and who was unfortunitely bulker than myself, and he could not get in and vote. I registered my protest and the man on the spot was good enough to immediately re-arrange and make the necessary convenience. The Hon'ble Members who had the misfortune to fight elections would bear testimony to my statement.

Then, the colour box. The first general election conducted under the colour box system. How beautiful a system it is, but what is the use of that, if the colours employed by our Government are not distinguishable one from the other. I had the privilege of getting the yellow box as against the green of my opponent and I know instances, Sir, of my valuable votes which were intended to be put in to the yellow box having gone into the green box as a result of the inability to distinguish the green from the yellow, not because of the defect in the power of identifying colours in the voters but because of the most unhappy colours used by the authorities. Again, unhappy individuals who had to fight elections will bear testimony to this statement of mine.

Then, Sir, the trouble did not end there. There was the publication of the names of the persons who were to work at the polling booths. The elections were to come off on the 15th Edavam. The Gazette notification containing the names of the individuals was published in the Gazette of 13th, 48 hours before the elections and curiously enough Sir, there was a correction slip to this publication of the 13th published in a special issue dated the 14th. The names of the polling officers and their assistants above were mentioned there. It was the duty of these polling officers and assistants to select the assistants required by them and a good many of them, to quote one instance, as many as 72 of the voters of my constituency were selected by these polling officers to work as clerks and watchers and to such other posts; they had to exercise their votes and for that they had to get a certificate from the returning officers concerned for which due application had to be made and sanctioned by the returning officer and that has to reach the voter concerned before he leaves for the station to which he is posted. I had the misfortune, again as a result of the dereliction of duty on the part of the officers concerned to make arrangements to loose a good many votes for want of these certificates. I had to make frantic efforts to get at as many as 24 voters thus selected and I personally took them to the returning officer's office to get the certificates, but unfortunately the returning officer who ought to have been on the spot, was absent, taking rest elsewhere having made no arrangements for the issue of these certificates. To register my protest and to bring it to the notice of the Government I immediately stepped into the nearest anchal office which was next door to the Returning officers' office and posted all those applications in a cover and took a postal receipt so that it may not be attempted to be denied later. The postal receipt is with me and you can look at it if you want.

Then about the counting of votes. Is there any constituency, Sir, in which valid votes ordinary valid votes, had to be rejected only due to the seal required on the ballot paper not being embossed on it? What a sense of duty? Again, the votes for the general constituency were put into the ballot boxes of the special constituency and *vise versa* for the double reason, inefficiency of the officer concerned and inadequacy of the arrangements at the polling booths.

These are the glaring mistakes committed by the officers concerned in the conduct of elections and it is for that, Sir, that I strenuously oppose this grant and make a request to the

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Government that the delinquents from head to foot, whoever is responsible for any particular action, be booked so that such unfortunate things may not be repeated three years hence. That is the prayer, Sir, I oppose the grant.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* Sir, I should like to say a few words with reference to the attacks made on the arrangements made for the conduct of elections. With reference to the first point, that is the preparation of the preliminary electoral rolls and the omission of a large number of names there, is one question I think one of the questions for which answer has to be given. Even before this, when this question was raised before this House, it was pointed out that the main omission was due to the fact that those names could not be in the electoral roll because their applications, putting entered in the rolls on the ground that they were school finals was not presented at all. They ought to have applied if they want that their names should be in the electoral roll. Their omission to come and make the applications in time in spite of the publication in the Gazette that they should do so, is that which was chiefly responsible for the largest number of omissions in the preliminary rolls. If the lists are scrutinised, it will be found that the omissions were mostly, if not wholly, in the three municipalities. It is there that we have got the largest number of educated young men.

Coming to the next attack, that is to say, the name of the Samprathi was not there in the list, I do not exactly know why it was ommitted. It may be because he was not living in the constituency for 120 days in the half year.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* That is a guess work. I contradict that.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* Then you give the reason for the omission. I can't think of any other reason, unless you say that some partiality has been shown.

Mr. President: Order, Order, I made no complaint of partiality.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* Then with reference to the colour boxes and the colours. There are hundreds who have gone to the polling booths and the boxes are still avilable. If necessary they can be brought and seen whether these attacks are true.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Worth doing.

Mr. President: Will the Hon'ble Member be kind enough to refrain from these interruptions. I quite understand it is very difficult for the Hon'ble Member to do so. I ask the Hon'ble Member kindly to refrain from interruptions.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri) :* I will try to refrain, Sir.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* Then with regard to the appointments of the polling officers, that the appointments were notified in the Gazette of the 13th while the election were on the 15th. I may inform the House that no Gazette notification is necessary for this at all. What is really wanted is that the persons who had been selected as polling officers should be given the order of appointment sufficiently early so that they may come prepared to the polling stations in time to receive the stationery, boxes etc., and to make the other necessary arrangements. For that purpose, the polling officers were given these orders of appointment on Wednesday previous to the election. The election was to take place on Monday. The orders were despatched from my office on the previous Tuesday before 12 noon. They were delivered in the offices of all the heads of departments before 3 p.m. on that day and I know that all the Heads of Depatments whose officers were selected for this work despatched the orders by the very night train. The latest time by which the orders were despatched was Tuesday night. From one or two other pieces of information which I have got I may say a few polling officers from this particular constituency applied for certificates under section 42 to enable them to vote and they got it, I think, on Wednesday or Thursday the exact date I will give while answering the question, so that if all the others were mindful of their duties of asking for a certificate and getting it, they would have got it 4 days before the date of the election.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Question.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* Therefore, to say that they were delayed due to the Gazette notification coming late is certainly not to put the facts fairly.

My request to the House therefore is to see what the facts are. I can prove these facts if they are challenged. It is not guess-work. That is what actually took place in several offices in Trichur. On Tuesday all the orders were issued. There are polling officers who received certificates from the Co-operative Registrar to whom applications were made, 4 or 5 days before

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the date of the election. That will show that the appointment orders were received by these officers sufficiently early.

Another point of attack was that a correction slip was issued on the 14th. A correction slip was necessitated in this way. Some of the officers who were appointed as polling officers made requests that on account of their ill-health or other difficulties they were unable to go and function as polling officers, and so substitutes had to be appointed. Such substitutes have to be appointed even if it is one hour before the polling begins. Every polling station has to be supplied with a polling officer and if one officer is unable to go and function, a substitute has to be sent. Therefore it does not require an answer why this correction slip had to be issued on the 14th. Some of the officers wrote to me that on account of the difficulties, their being in the hospital, in distant places, being invalids, etc., they could not come and do the work. At once, substitutes were appointed and these correction slips—not one, more than one, two, were intended to replace those who were originally appointed. I submit there is absolutely nothing irregular and that no omission or delay was caused in the offices which made arrangements for the conduct of these elections.

Demand put and carried

9—27—2—Printing Paper
10—27—2—Printing Miscellaneous

Mr. B. V. K. Menon *(Secretary to Government):* Sir, I rise to move the next two additional allotments to-gether. *i.e.*, Rs. 40,000 under "27—2 Printing Paper" and Rs. 1,084 under "27—2—Printing Miscellaneous."

The first is due to the cost of the various kinds of printing paper supplied to the Press from the Stationary Department. During the first 9 months alone this has come up to Rs. 75,176—10—1 against the budget provision of Rs. 45,000. The increase is partly due to the increase in consumption of paper required for printing and supply of special Departmental forms, Registers, Ration Cards, etc. to the Civil Supplies Department, and for printing works done on behalf of the War Publicity and National War Front Departments. There has also been increase in the cost of the various kinds of paper as compared with the cost paid for these items in the previous year. Since the allotment under the head was fixed on the basis of the actuals of the previous years, the enhanced provision now required was not anticipated at the budget time. A sum of Rs. 40,000 more is, therefore, required under the head during the current year.

The other is consequent on the extension of the term of the War Risk Insurance Policy for a further period of 1 year till 1st April 1946, in respect of the Press Building and Machinery. A sum of Rs. 778 is required for the payment of premium to the New India Assurance Co., during the current year. Due to the grant of uniform, etc., allowance to the Police Constables at an enhanced rate, a sum of Rs. 119 was additionally required for this year for payment of contribution to the Police Department on account of pay and allowance of the 3 Police Constables deputed to guard the Press. There has been abnormal increase in the rate of labour charges. The provision fixed under the head towards labour charges in connection with the distribution of printed forms to the various Departments in the State was therefore found quite insufficient. It is now estimated that a sum of Rs. 1,084 more is necessary to meet the required till the end of the year.

I request the House to sanction these additional allotments.

Demands put and carried

11—39—Miscellaneous—Miscellaneous and unforeseen charges

Mr. B. V. K. Menon *(Secretary to Government):* I rise to move an additional allotment of Rs. 1,500 under "39—Miscellaneous—Miscellaneous and unforeseen charges." A sum of Rs. 1,515 has to be paid towards advertisement charges and a sum of Rs. 76 is required for payment of grants as financial help. Advertisement charges, namely, relate to the selection of candidates for training in fisheries and for higher technical education abroad. The balance under the head is found insufficient. A further sum of Rs. 1,500 is therefore required for meeting these items of expenditure and also the expenditure for the last two months of the year. This may be sanctioned.

Demand put and carried

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